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with what Sumner would call the formation of American folkways and mores.

In describing the influence on American colonial life, of climate, soil, contour, waterways, and occupations, the author is much more successful in his detailed treatment of New England and the South than he is in the opening chapters on the general effects of natural conditions on society. Here he follows Buckle, Spencer, Bagehot, and Huxley, while in the former studies he is obviously guided by Shaler and Semple. If Mr. Low were more familiar with the work of Ratzel, Ripley, and Demolins he would probably attribute less influence to Buckle's "aspect of nature" and more to the indirect effects of nature mediated through economic activities and interests.

Even if this book is likely to prove disappointing to the social psychologist and to the historian, it deserves a hearty welcome among intelligent lay readers. Mr. Low's style, although rather too metaphorical for close scientific treatment, has a true literary quality and gives vividness and force to his presentation. He is primarily a literary, historical essayist although he speaks slightingly of what he calls the "literary entrepreneur" (p. 5). The book as a whole lacks the coherence of a work unified by comprehensive and illuminating principles of interpretation. It is significant of the isolation of different groups of workers that Mr. Low should describe as "a Study in National Psychology" a book based upon bibliography of more than one hundred and fifty titles which include no single work by any contemporary psychologist or psychological sociologist.

G. E. V.

Equal Suffrage. The Results of an Investigation in Colorado for the Collegiate Equal Suffrage League of New York State. By HELEN SUMNER, PH.D. New York and London: Harper & Brothers, 1909, Pp. xxxvi+282.

To those who are interested in woman's suffrage in this country, and who have been watching with some misgivings the methods which have been used for propagandist purposes, if not by the majority, at least by the conspicuous, it is an encouraging sign, first, that a non-partisan and scientific investigation of suffrage should be undertaken by the suffragists themselves and, second, that so practical and useful an undertaking as an examination of the fruits of suffrage in some definite locality, should be considered worth while. For what people really interested in this question are asking for, is practical proofs of the way in which the thing has operated and is operating now.

The purpose of the investigation of which this book represents the results, was to make an impartial and scientific study of the influence of equal suffrage upon political, economic, and social life in Colorado in 1906. Colorado, where women first voted in 1894, was chosen as a good field of study because it was considered more typical of normal industrial and social conditions than either Wyoming, Utah, or Idaho. Miss Sumner considers the effect of women's votes upon the following: political methods, elections, public office, public and private employment of women, legislation, and the effect of the possession of the ballot upon woman herself, her intellectual and moral character, the home and children. The information was collected in four ways: (1) by the circulation of question blanks, (2) by the study of newspaper files for 1894, 1900, and 1906, (3) by the examination of registration books to obtain statistics showing proportions of and classes of women who vote, (4) by a study of state, country, and city reports and records to determine the number of women office-holders, their records, salaries, etc. Further sources were the census, the United States Bureau of Labor reports, and political conventions. Five thousand question blanks were sent out to women and men delegates to conventions, to members of political committees, to state legislators, county and city officials, and other prominent persons; 1,200 of these were answered wholly or in part. Replies were classified on the basis (1) of belief in equal suffrage and of sex, (2) according to political experience, residence in Colorado or some other state, general prominence and intelligence. The material gathered in this and other ways is presented in tables as well as by discussion.

Most of the material for the conclusions as to party machinery, some of that for the economic aspects of suffrage and its effect on legislation, and all of that on the effect of equal suffrage on the women of Colorado, was taken from answers to question blanks, and therefore represents the opinions only of less than 1,200 persons in Colorado. The conclusions drawn are as follows: as to the part women take in caucuses and primaries—"women nowhere take quite their full share of responsibility—their activity depends first upon the size of the community and the proportion of women and second upon the issue and the candidates" (p. 29). The reasons alleged are that primaries are in the hands of politicians, and that there is need of direct-primary laws. And the reader may conclude that women in Colorado have not yet got their attention on changing the existing machinery which stands in the way of their rendering the best service to their state, that they are, in a measure, taking the line of least resistance. It is significant also, here, that women are said to take little interest in the character of candidates outside of the question of personal morality and the liquor business. That is, they are said not to have exhibited as yet, either interest in, or good judgment of the ability, public honor, and honesty of, candidates for office. As to the economic effect of equal suffrage, the conclusion is, that it has, so far, been slight. A few new employments have opened to women and their salaries in most public positions been made equal to those of men doing the same work. But men still have the best-paid positions. The influence of suffrage on legislation is its most conspicuous effect in Colorado, according to Miss Sumner, although this effect can only be attributed to the votes of women as a matter of probability. The statement is made that the passage of laws has been effected by the votes of women with less effort and in less time than would have been required in non-suffrage states. It remains to be shown, however, that the vote is a more direct means of getting laws passed than lack of the vote, in the matter of actual expenditure of time and effort. The Colorado laws are good, especially for the protection of women and children but the defects in them are also conspicuous; for example, Colorado has no state provision for factory inspection, and the direct and indirect effect of this on men, women, and children can be imagined. As to the effect of the vote on women themselves, Miss Sumner says, "It has tended to cultivate intelligent public spirit, to enlarge their interests, to develop their ability, etc."

The book is distinctly a non-partisan study in the methods used and in the conclusions drawn from the evidence, although every now and then one gets the impression that the writer has tried to be perfectly *fair* to the cause of woman's suffrage and in so doing has added an argument or explanation which often does not hold. As, for example, in speaking of corruption in politics, after stating that the vicious element among women not only vote generally at all elections but vote more than once, Miss Sumner adds, "All this, however, is far more a criticism of 'politics as it is run' than of equal suffrage, for if the votes of the men and women are compared there can be no doubt but that the larger vote is cast by vicious men than by vicious women" (p. 85). One of the grounds on which women are claiming the right of suffrage is that it will purify politics, and therefore, to say that where equal suffrage exists the vote of vicious women is not quite as large as that of vicious men is not wholly convincing. On the whole, the evidence here given is neutral rather than decisively for or against equal suffrage. The person not deeply interested in the suffrage would get no very strong reason from this experience of Colorado for granting women this right, unless he considered a vague broadening of their interests and an opportunity for a few women to exercise distinct ability in public office strong reasons. To the person deeply interested in the suffrage as a question of some social importance, the most significant and striking thing about this Colorado experience is how much more the women of Colorado might have accomplished by a more unified, organized, and consciously worked-out effort to use their possibilities. Much has been done there and a few have rendered distinguished service, but a detailed program for steadily improving things, from party machinery to factory inspection and who shall vote, has been wanting.

The book is prefaced by a labored Introduction of 36 pages, by another writer, in which Miss Sumner's facts and conclusions are interpreted beforehand for the reader, in which the reader is told just how to understand the book, and in which a distinctly partisan argument in favor of woman's suffrage is advanced. It is an unfortunate reflection upon an otherwise impartial and valuable study.

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La défense sociale et les transformations du droit pénal. Par A. PRUIS. Bruxelles, 1910. Pp. 170.

Professor Pruis, one of the founders of the International Criminalistic Association, the Belgian delegate to the International Prison Congress at Washington in 1910 has shown in this recent volume his appreciation of the emotions and tendencies of the American movement for prison reform. His treatment of the subject of the abnormal offender is especially noteworthy. In his earlier great work on criminal law he urged the same thesis of "social defense," and he returns to the argument with fresh illustrations. The author